

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Garrett Container Systems Inc.

Maryland Technology Extension Service

Pollution Prevention Site Assessment

Client Profile:

Garrett Container Systems, Inc., manufactures custom designed aluminum containers for military and commercial applications. The containers are fabricated using a combination of sawing, milling and welding processes. Purchased components include hardware such as stainless steel handles, plastic and foam dividers and inserts. The company is located in Accident, Maryland, a town in Garrett County in far Western Maryland, and presently employs 90 people. They plan to hire an additional 20 people by the end of the year.

Situation:

Garrett Container Systems utilized the services of the Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, in the past. MTES has been offering Pollution Prevention Site Assessments in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment for the last several years. These assessments are funded by a US EPA Pollution Prevention Incentives for States grant. Jim Kesselring, Quality Support Manager of Garrett Container, responded as a result of marketing efforts for this program and requested a site visit from MTES.

Solution:

MTES met with Garrett Container Systems to gather information on waste generation, recycling activities and energy usage. MTES also toured the facility to gain an understanding of current conditions and to look for potential savings opportunities. Although this company already had many excellent P2 practices in place, MTES developed additional recommendations: 1) The current paint filters are disposable. The dried filters are sent to the landfill for disposal. The company should investigate the feasibility of using reusable paint filters; 2) The waste paint and solvent used for cleaning is stored in a 55 gallon drum and shipped to an incinerator as a waste fuel, good P2 practice, but the lacquer thinner to clean the paint spray guns could be recycled using a solvent distillation unit, and re-used; 3) Many drill bits of various sizes are used throughout the operation and are discarded when dull. Re-sharpening them in house should be considered; and 4) Currently, damaged pallets are discarded. The company is unsure whether pallet recycling is a viable option in this region. The company should look into the economics of pallet recycling. If an insufficient quantity of pallets is generated to justify a pickup, an alternative could be to combine with other companies in the area. This would allow the group to offer a larger quantity to the recycler.

Results:

- * Reviewed and implemented recommendations.
- * Anticipated savings of \$8,000 a year.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



NIST is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

"Garrett Container Systems thanks MTES for this excellent site visit report, and we look forward to working with MTES on our continuous improvement process."

Jim Kesselring, Quality Support Manager